

19th August 1925]

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Because the expenditure incurred in sending the telegram was not a legitimate charge on municipal funds incidental to municipal administration.

(c) No.

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" May I know why surcharge certificate was issued only against the six municipal councillors ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I want notice of the question. "

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—" May I know whether the Government have no powers to authorize what may be termed ' extraordinary expenditure ' ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" They have ; but in this case they did not consider it necessary to exercise those powers. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Are not charges incurred with regard to postage, etc., within the powers of the municipality ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I do not think they can incur the expenditure in question. "

Election of President of Rajampet taluk board.

* 101 Q.—Mr S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received a copy of the proceedings of a public meeting held at Nandalur on 24th March 1925 to the effect that the presidentship of Rajampet Taluk Board should be thrown open to election ;

(b) whether the Government have any intention of doing so ; and

(c) if not, why not ?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Notification No. 585, dated 26th May 1925, nominating M.R.Ry. P. Raghava Reddi as President of the Rajampet Taluk Board.

(c) The Government considered that in the best interests of the taluk board a president should for the present be nominated.

Contract to Messrs. Hoe & Co. for printing the local and municipal forms.

* 102 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) when the contract for printing the local and municipal forms was given to Messrs. Hoe & Co. and for how long ;

(b) when the rates were revised and the contract was renewed and for what period ;

(c) the percentage of increase allowed on the existing rates ;

(d) when the contract is coming to a close ;

(e) why no public tenders were invited ; and

(f) when fresh tenders are going to be called ?

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A.—(a) & (d) The contract was given in 1911 and continued till October 1923.

(b) & (c) The appended statement gives the required information.*

(e) & (f) The question of inviting fresh tenders is under consideration.

Nominations to Salem Municipal Council.

* 103 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that five Brahman gentlemen were duly elected by the rate-payers of the Salem Municipal Council to that council during last November;

(b) whether it is a fact that one more Brahman gentleman was appointed by the Government to the Salem Municipal Council;

(c) whether it is a fact that there was a member nominated by the Government belonging to the Odda or Boyan community to the council and he was not re-nominated; and

(d) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a), (b) and (c), whether they will be pleased to call for the information?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the latest Annual Civil List.

(b) & (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—“Sir, with reference to clause (b) of the question, with due regard to all communities, I wish to know the reason or the necessity for appointing a Brahman gentleman to the Salem Municipal Council, since I see from the Annual Civil List for 1925 that already there were five elected members belonging to the Brahman community?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“The authority to make the recommendation has recommended the nomination of a Brahman.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—“Should not the hon. the Minister exercise his own judgment in the matter whatever the authority's recommendation may be?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“The very fact that he has been recommended by the authority concerned is a presumption in favour of his nomination.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo:—“Was the fact that five Brahmans were there already made known to the Minister?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“I am not quite sure whether at the time I was conscious of there being five Brahman members already.”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“Has the authority recommending this particular nomination brought to the notice of the Government the fact that there were already five gentlemen of that community in the council and has he put forward any extraordinary reasons for making this extraordinary recommendation?”